BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE INSTRUCTION 21-035

22 FEBRUARY 2004

Maintenance

LOW ALTITUDE OPERATIONS (LOA)

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This Fairchild Air Force Base Instruction (FAFBI) establishes procedures and responsibilities for the identification and inspection of aircraft performing low-and very-low altitude refueling missions. This instruction applies to all military and civilian personnel assigned and/or attached to the 92d Air Refueling Wing. "Ensure all records created by this instruction are maintained and disposed of IAW AFMAN 37-139, *Records Disposition Schedule*. See **Attachment 1** for glossary of references and supporting information.

1. Terms: Low Altitude Operation (LAO) is defined as clean (gear-up) configured flight between 3,000 and 6,000 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) with airspeeds above 240 Knots Indicated Airspeed (KIAS). Very Low Altitude Operation (VLAO) is defined as below 3,000 feet AGL with airspeeds above 240 KIAS. Takeoffs and landings (including touch-and-goes) and departures and approaches (including Visual Flight Rules (VFR) departures and arrivals) are not considered LAO/VLAO.

2. Responsibilities: All squadron commanders and maintenance supervisors will ensure their people adhere to procedures outlined in this FAFBI.

2.1. The 92d Operations Support Squadron will:

2.1.1. Notify the 92d Maintenance Operations Squadron (MOS) Plans, Scheduling and Documentation (PS&D) Section of all scheduled LAO/VLAO missions in sufficient time to accomplish all prior to flight inspections; no less than 72 hours.

2.2. The 92 MOS PS&D will:

2.2.1. Ensure that scheduled LAO/VLAO flights are identified in the remarks block of the weekly flying schedule. LAO/VLAO missions not printed on the weekly schedule must be coordinated through the appropriate 92d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMXS) Aircraft Maintenance Unit (AMU) production supervisor.

2.2.2. Enter a prior-to-flight inspection job in G081 for VLAO no less than 72 hours prior to flight. The job in G081 will read: "Pre-VLAO Inspection Required IAW T.O. 1C-135A-6, *Aircraft Scheduled Inspections and Maintenance Requirements*."

2.2.3. Enter a post-flight inspection job in G081 for both LAO and VLAO missions. The job in G081 will read: "Post-VLAO/LAO Inspection Required IAW T.O. 1C-135A-6." This job will be loaded at the same time the prior to flight inspection is loaded for VLAO or when the weekly schedule is printed for the LAO missions.

2.2.4. Keep track of the LAO/VLAO data and number of hours flown for each aircraft as it applies.

2.2.5. Notify the appropriate AMU production supervisor of the pending inspection and enter a job in G081 when enough flying hours accumulate to warrant an inspection as outlined in TO 1C-135A-6.

2.3. AMU production supervisor will:

2.3.1. Ensure prior-to-flight and post flight inspections are complied with in accordance with appropriate technical data.

2.4. AMXS Maintenance Debrief will:

2.4.1. Ask the flight crew if an LAO/VLAO mission was performed as scheduled and notify the AMU production supervisor and PS&D.

2.4.2. Capture the takeoff, altitude, speed, duration of the LAO/VLAO and landing times in a note on the AFTO Form 781A, **Maintenance Discrepancy and Work Document**.

3. Forms Adopted. AFTO Form 781A, **Maintenance Discrepancy and Work Document.**

ANTHONY M. MAUER, Colonel, USAF
Commander

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

AFMAN 37-139, *Records Disposition Schedule*

TO 1C-135A-6, *Aircraft Scheduled Inspections and Maintenance Requirements, 1 Mar 00*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

LAO—Low Altitude Operation

AGL—Above Ground Level

KIAS—Knots Indicated Airspeed

VLAO—Very Low Altitude Operation

VFR—Visual Flight Rules

MOS —Maintenance Operations Squadron

AMXS—Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

AMU—Aircraft Maintenance Unit

PS&D—Plans, Scheduling, and Documentation